

Amendments to Specification

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In the ON state as shown in Fig. 6, the current flows in a conductive path from the power supply side terminal 5 to a load side terminal 16 via the power supply side fixed contact 3, movable contact 17, load side fixed contact 4, heater 9, bimetal 8, bimetal support 10, coil 13, and relay conductor 15 in this order. When the load current flowing in this conductive path is overloaded, the heater 9 heats the bimetal 8 to deform and ~~releases~~ release the locked switching mechanism 23 via a shifter 27 upon the lapse of time according to a value of the current. As a result, the switching lever 26 is driven to rotate clockwise by the energy applied by the above-mentioned main spring, so that the movable contact 17 is opened to cut the current (tripping action).

Please replace a paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] The above-mentioned arc gas passes through the extinguish chambers 20 to reach the walls of the lower housing 2 on the power supply side and the load side, and then ~~are~~ is emitted through the gas emission holes 21 as indicated by arrows in Fig. 7. When the large current is cut or broken, the lower housing 2 is deformed due to an increase in the internal pressure thereof caused by the arc gas. For this reason, the lower case 2 covering the intermediate case 1 may be disengaged from the intermediate case 1.

Please replace a paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Hereunder, embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a three-phase circuit breaker in an ON state, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing a state that a lower housing is deformed when large current is cut or broken, Figs. 3(A)-3(C) are side views showing an

intermediate housing and the lower housing, Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4-4 in Fig. 3 3(B), and Fig. 5 is a perspective view showing the lower housing. In the drawings, elements and parts substantially identical to those in the conventional device are designated by the same reference numerals, and descriptions thereof are omitted.